

# Fertility decline and changing living arrangements

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Strengthening the Scientific Foundation for Policymaking to  
Meet the Challenges of Aging in Latin America and the  
Caribbean

May 28-29, 2015

National Academy of Medicine, Mexico City

# Objectives

- Provide some thoughts on the relevance of studying living arrangements of older persons in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Illustrate those considerations with information from previous studies
- Present some preliminary results from a study on recent trends in the region that is currently in the making

## Why the study of living arrangements of older persons is particularly relevant in Latin America and the Caribbean?

- Informal support is supposed to play a decisive role in the well-being of the elderly wherever provision of adequate formal support is absent deficient
- Coresidence is usually an important element in the intra-family support transfers system
- Not only more people survive to old age, but those who survive tend to live longer
- There are many factors that tend to constrain the ability of the family to provide support to the elderly
  - *Increasing labor-force participation of women*
  - *Decreasing number of children*
  - *Increasing mobility of younger generations*

# Aspects to take into account in the study of living arrangements of older persons

- Consequences

- *Well-being of the elderly*

- Support received in ADL/IADL
    - Money, goods and services flows to the elderly
    - Satisfaction with current living arrangement
    - Satisfaction with life in general

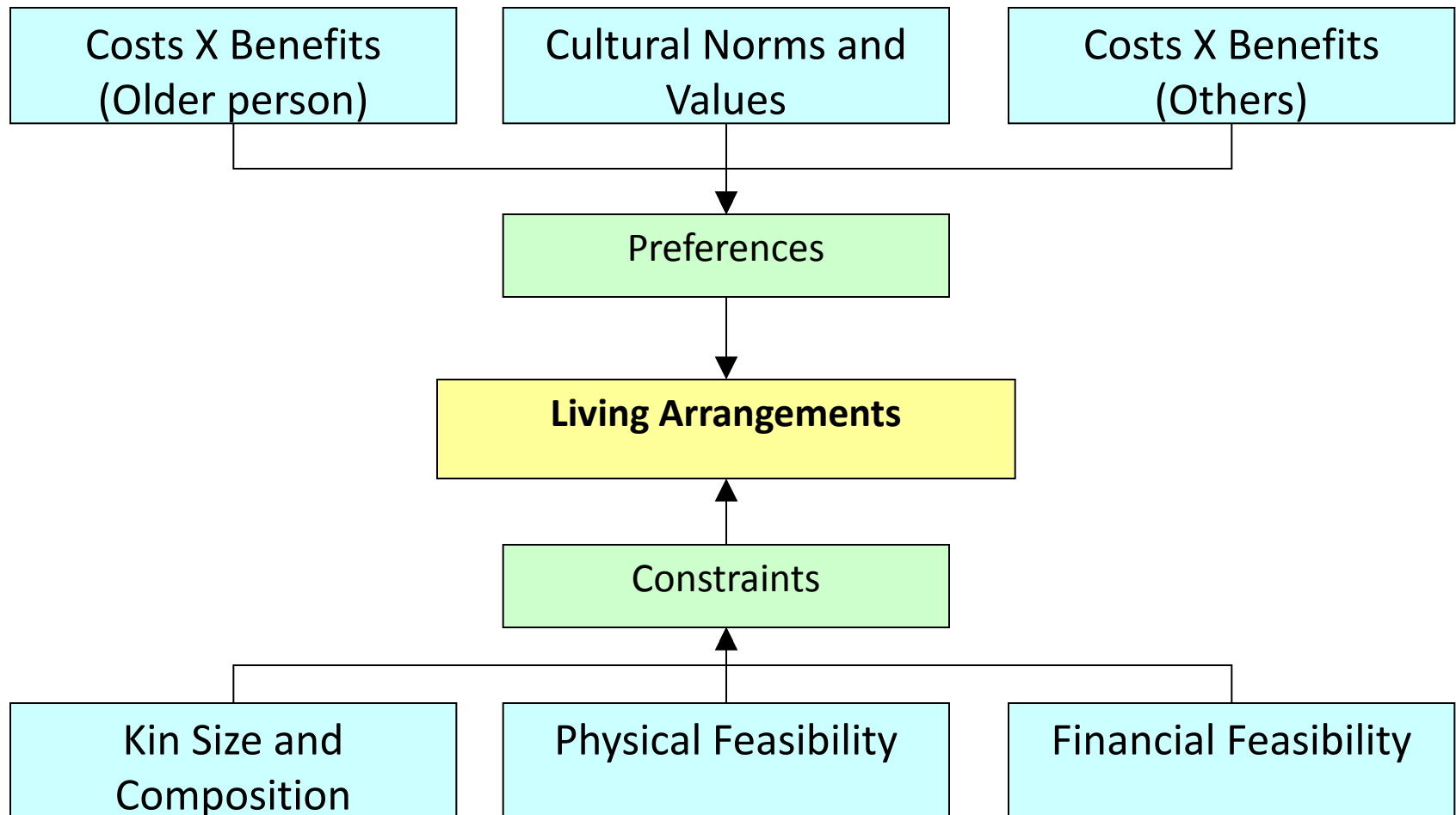
- Determinants

- *Public policy*

- Classification

- *How to choose a small set of meaningful categories*

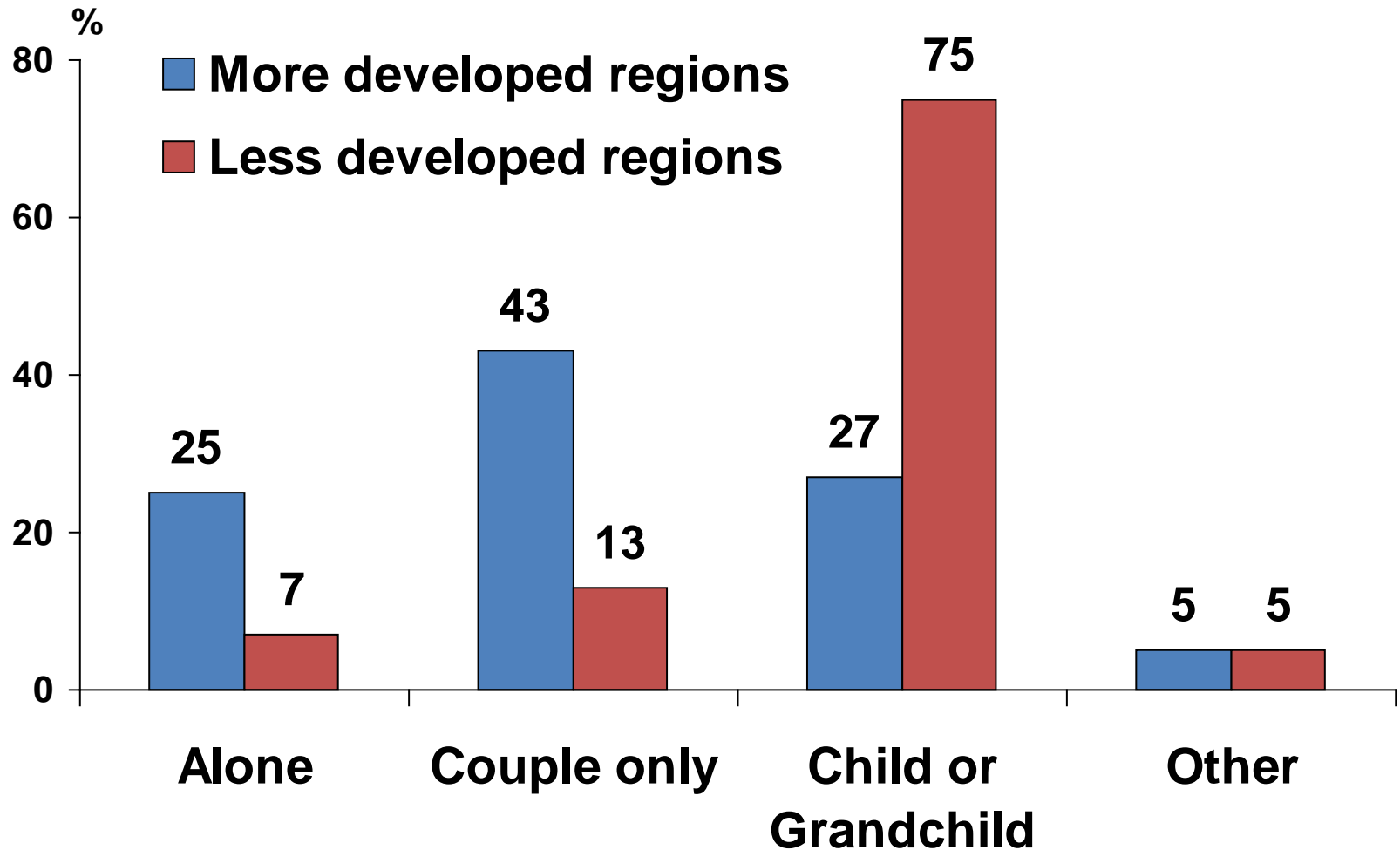
# Determinants of Living Arrangements of Older Persons



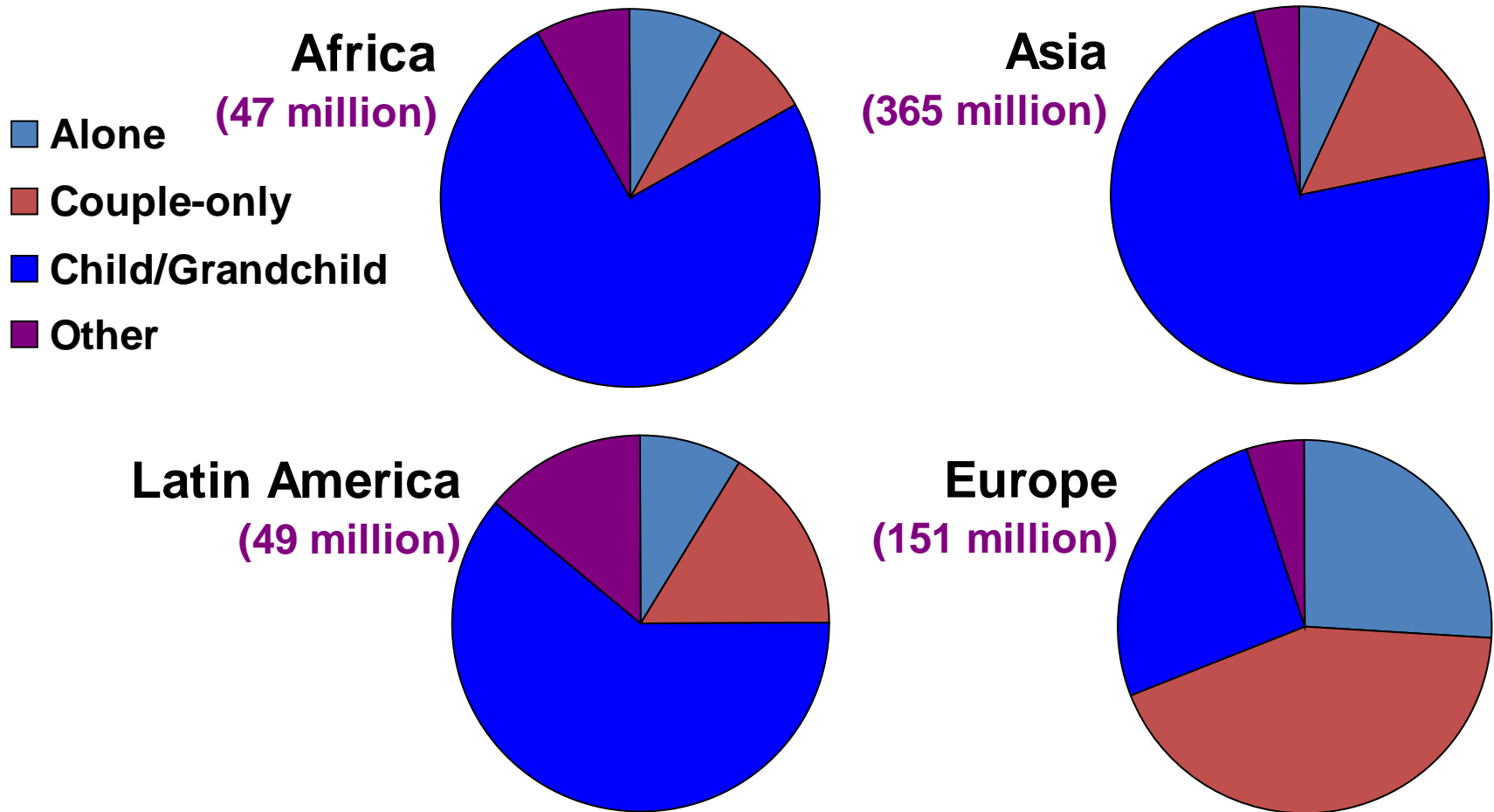
# Classification of living arrangements

- Source
  - Relationship to the older person (ideal)
  - Relationship to the head of household
- Categories
  - Independent
    - Alone
    - Spouse only
  - Coresidence
    - With children
    - With others

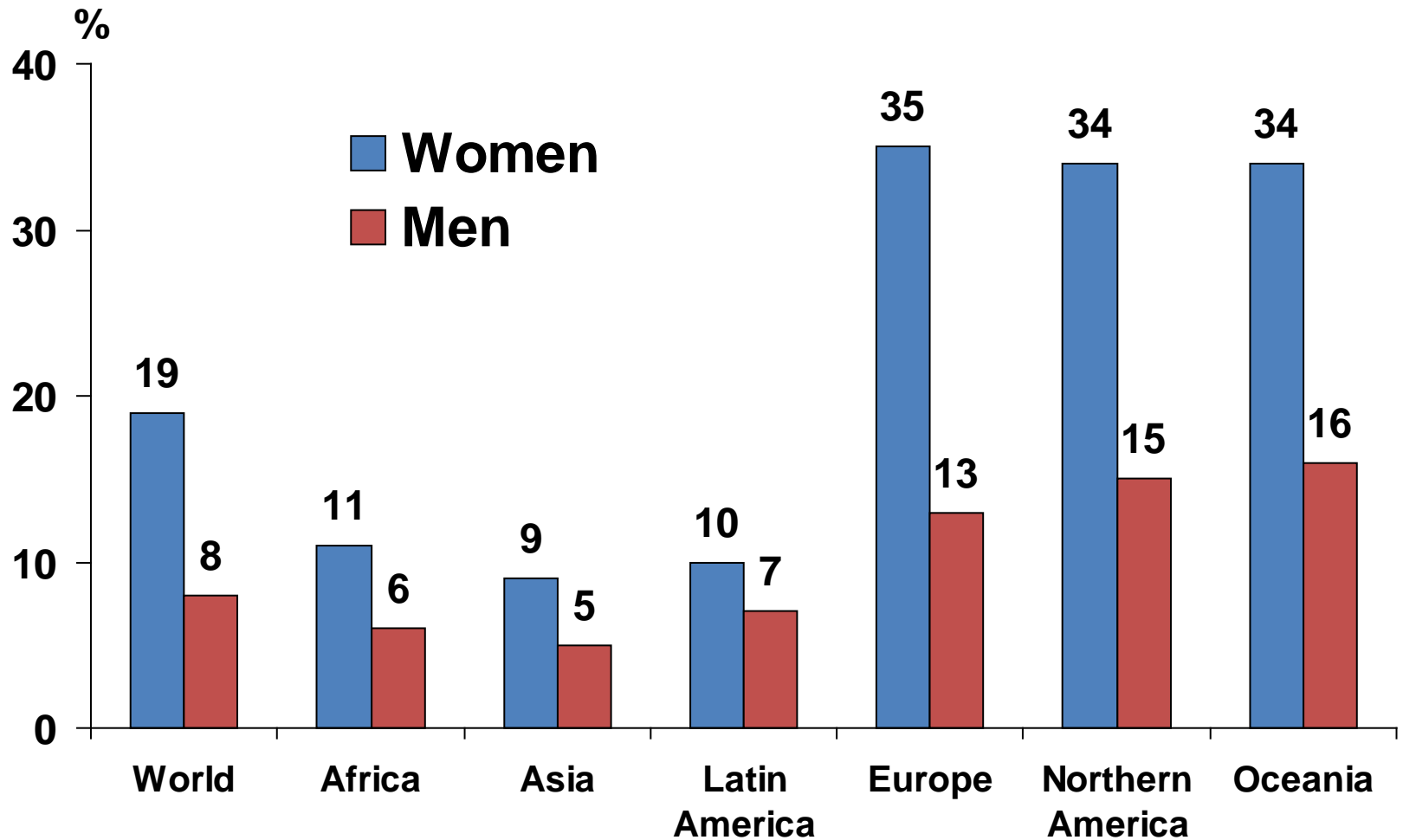
# There are huge regional differences in living arrangements of older persons (60+)



Co-residence with children in Latin America is lower than Asia and Africa, but much higher than Europe

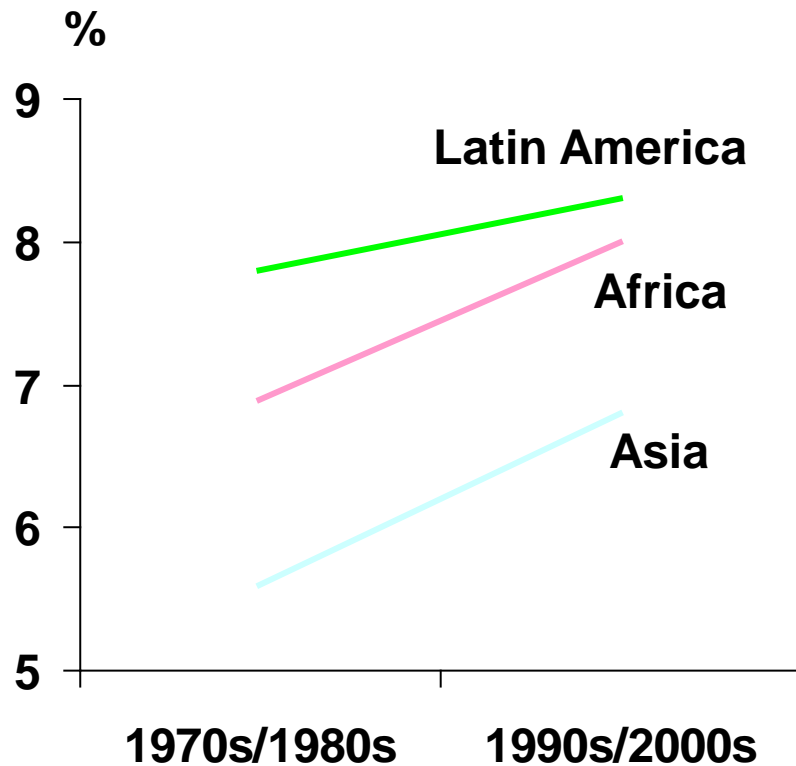


# Older Women are More Likely than Older Men to Live Alone

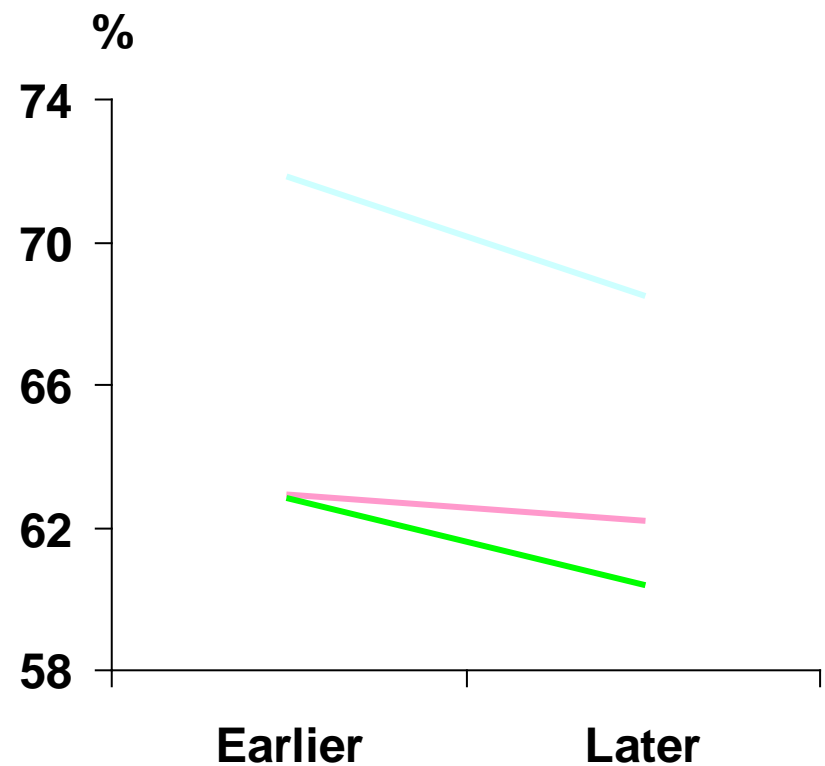


# Trends in Living Arrangements

## Alone



## With Children



# Economic and Social Differentials in the Course of Development

- Although still relatively low, the proportion of older persons living alone is expected to increase in developing countries
- In countries with very low levels of development, co-residence with children is associated with higher social and economic status
- Among countries at moderate levels of development this association tends to disappear or even reverse direction
- In the poorest countries, older persons living alone tend to be an especially disadvantaged group

# Living Arrangements and Informal Support Transfers (money, goods, services)

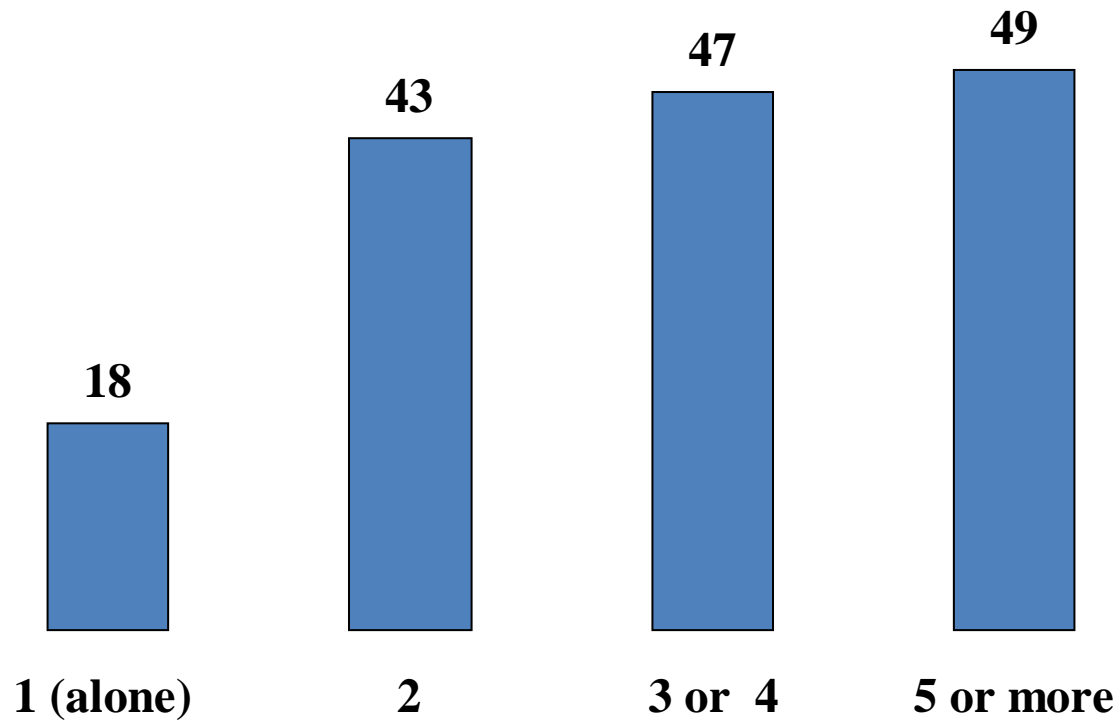
- Older persons are engaged in an intensive and two-way process of informal support transfers
  - Between 82% and 93% of older persons received some kind of support, **mainly from co-residents**
  - Between 70% and 88% provided some kind of support, **mainly to co-residents**

(SABE Survey, 2000, 7 Latin American cities)

# Living Arrangements and Informal Support Transfers (Activities of Daily Living)

- Among unmarried older persons:
  - Lower levels of socioeconomic and physical vulnerability increase the probability of living alone
  - Co-residence increases substantially the probability of receiving support in ADL or IADL
- Among married older persons:
  - Neither co-residence nor the number of children affect the probability of receiving support in ADL - spouses are the primary provider

# Older persons living alone are less likely to receive support in ADL (% , SABE Sample)

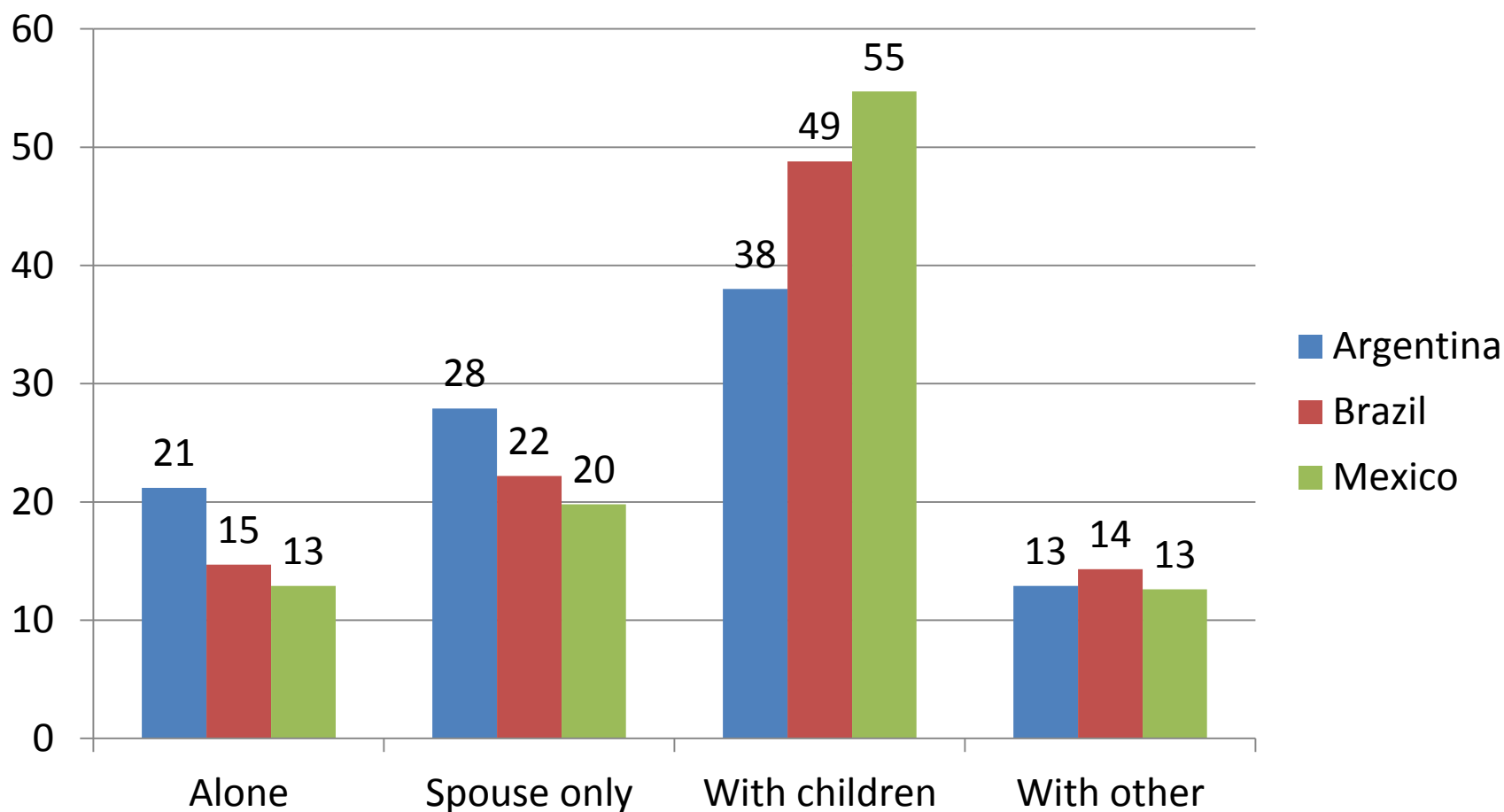


# Characteristics of older population in 3 Latin American countries

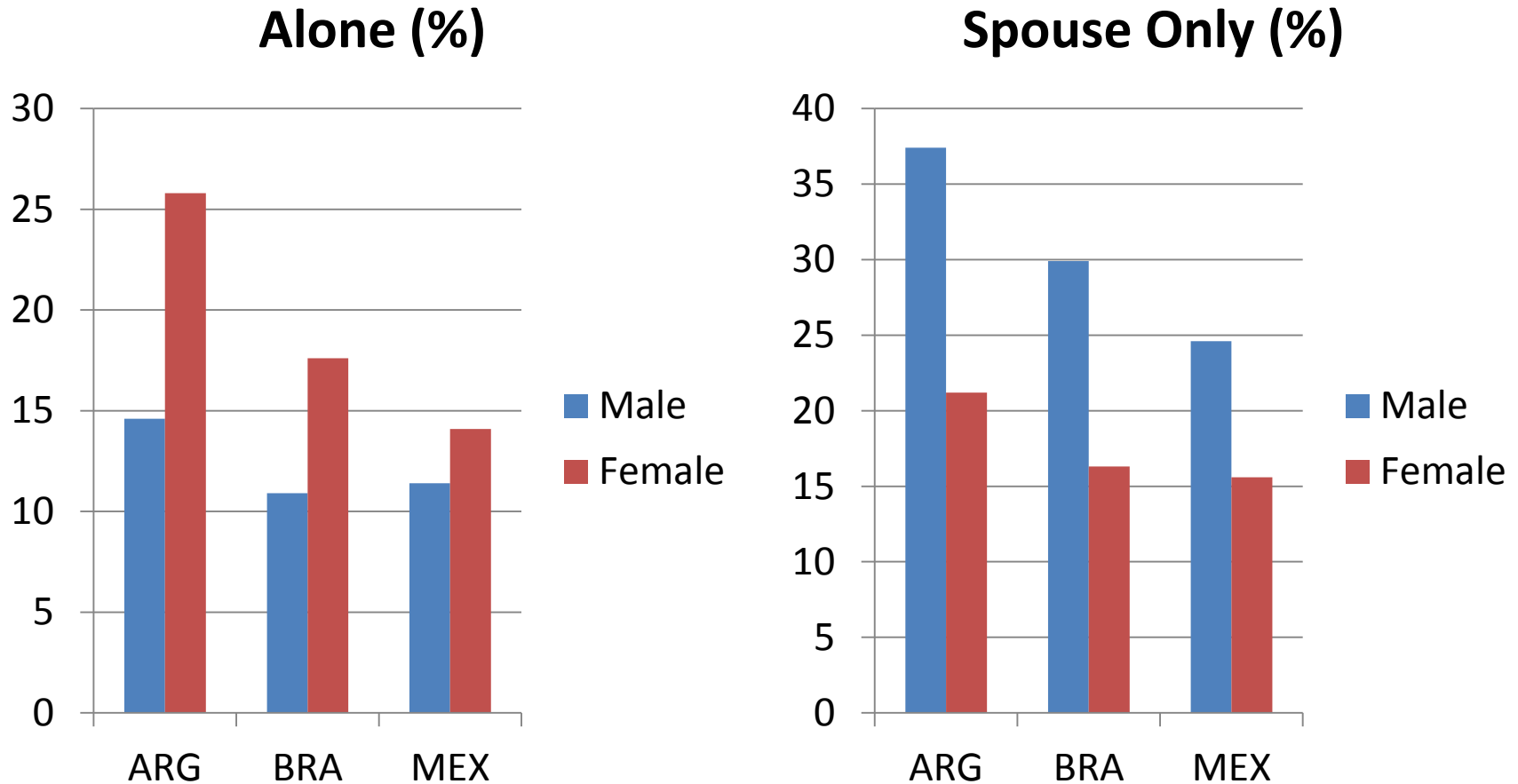
(2010 round of Census)

Country	% of pop 65+	% of households with a person 65+	Population 65+					
			Total (Millions)	% Female	% Head	% Low level of education	% Married	
							Male	Female
ARG	10.2	25.5	4.0	59	64	67		
BRA	7.4	19.2	13.0	57	62	86	66	34
MEX	6.5	19.7	7.3	54	64	82	72	40

# Living arrangements of older persons



Older women are more likely to live alone, older men are more likely to live with spouse only



# Some preliminary results from the multivariate analysis

- Higher age first increases and then decreases the probability of independent living
- For unmarried: probability of living alone higher among men
- For married: probability of living with spouse only higher among women
- Higher education increases the probability of independent living (alone, spouse only)